

BARCROFT NEWS

Volume 95, No. 4

December 1997

Carol Singing Featured At December Meeting

The whole family is invited to a holiday program and Christmas carol sing-along with the famous Barcroft Christmas band at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Everyone in Barcroft is welcome. You do not have to be a member of the civic league. Bring a neighbor, a friend, your kids, your musical instrument; bring some cookies, too, if you want.

The meeting will take place in the newly renovated Community House, 800 S. Buchanan.

This is the Barcroft School and Civic League's traditional program celebrating Christmas and other ethnic holidays of the season. Santa is likely to appear.

The optional band practice is at 7:30 p.m. on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 30) at Randy and Barbara Swart's house on 7th Street and all musicians of any kind are welcome (call 521-2080).

Our Christmas program is one meeting where we don't ask for volunteers

for community projects or conduct any BSCL business--and one of the best to just meet the folks in your neighborhood. Come and join your neighbors in expressing the good spirits of the season!

Election Results Show Barcroft Swing Precinct

Barcroft voted on election day and for one county-wide office we voted Republican, reinforcing our view that the precinct is not necessarily Democratic.

The Republican was Ben Winslow, who carried our precinct by 475 votes to Democrat Barbara Favola's 452. Favola won the race -- to fill Jim Hunter's unexpired county board term -- by 59 percent countywide. Some in Barcroft had criticized her position on Demeter House.

In the other races, Democrats won here. Jay Fisette won a county board seat by a narrow margin in Barcroft of just 3 votes over Amy Jones-Baskaran, but won the election by 62 percent. Jones-Baskaran got 474 votes, almost identical

(continued on page 7)

Construction Nearing at Taylor and 8th Streets

County staff, BSCL reps and neighbors met at the intersection of 8th and Taylor in mid-November for a "final preconstruction meeting" before the intersection is rebuilt. During the meeting they agreed to postpone work on the project until spring to make sure that it would not be left over the winter in a half-done state. But the design is almost complete, and there will be a considerable improvement in alignment, width, pavement surface and drainage. The project includes placing a small island in the middle of 8th Street to serve as a safe spot for pedestrians crossing there, squaring off the curb lines on the north side of 8th Street, and completing the sidewalk on the south side of the street.

The sidewalk completion requires Mr. Wayland Jones, who lives on that corner, to pay an assessment to the County of about \$3,600. Some of his neighbors have begun taking up a collection to help with the assessment. Please drop off your check with Pete Woods at 4219 8th Street S. if you want to help. There is no tax deduction for contributions, but Mr. Jones is a retiree on a fixed income and would be most appreciative. (That Cadillac in his driveway was inherited.)

Look for construction to begin in March or April. Call David Michaelson at 553-3953 for further info.

Barcroft Exchange

PLAYMATE WANTED. For 3 1/2-year-old and 1 1/2-year-old boys in Barcroft. Mornings or afternoons OK. Call Lisa at 486-2983.

Barcroft News Staff

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Contributions Ed. *Could be you!!*

Deadlines: 1st (ads) or 10th (editorial material) day of the month preceeding the issue month.

BSCL Officers for 1997-98

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Signs Manager Jack Turner
Traffic Committee Elaine Squeri 920-7014
Parade Andrew Hunter 979-8247

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Demeter Plans Spring '98 Move, BSCL Told

The November BSCL meeting heard Debbie Voltz of Vanguard Services, who reported they are proceeding to modify the house on Sixth Street so Demeter House can move in sometime in spring 1998. They have engaged neighborhood landscaper Scott Brinitzer to design and install new fences, plantings and a parking lot located behind the house to minimize the visual impact on the street. They are working with the neighborhood liaison committee, and Scott has proposed that the front landscaping be part of a block-wide unified plan to upgrade the streetscape if the neighbors are interested.

Also discussed at the meeting were legislative issues to be taken up by the Civic Federation. The BSCL approved positions on three specific issues: permitting flexible opening day for the schools (for), an ordinance against aggressive panhandling in traffic and near ATM machines (for) and permitting initiative and referendum in Virginia. Our vote on the last was almost 50-50, requiring an abstention on the Federation vote, but at the Federation meeting the issue was resolved by asking for a commission to study the issue, which our issue was resolved by asking for a commission to study the issue, which our delegate could support based on our straw poll.

Chris Munson of Parks and Recreation came to recruit a committee to

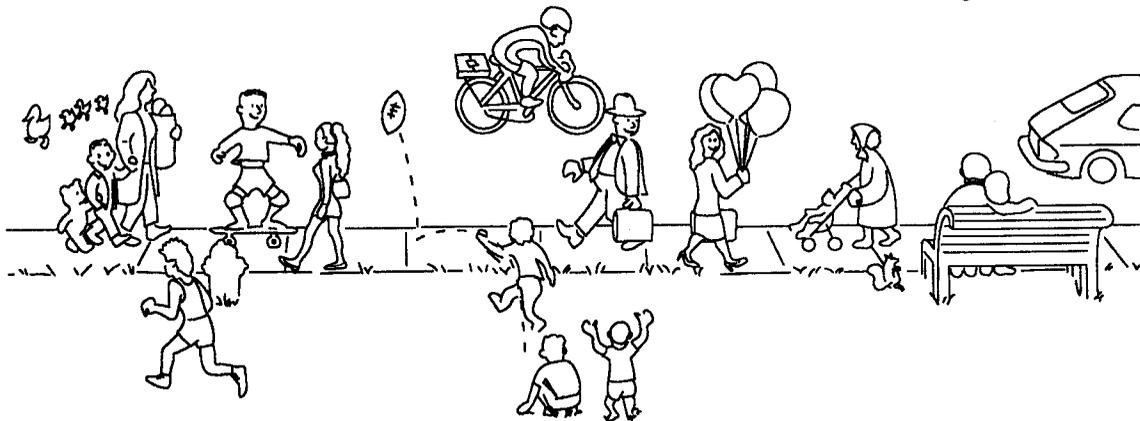
help design the improvements for our park at the end of Taylor Street on the State Department's Arlington Hall land. It is known as the Arlington Hall West Parcel for lack of a better name so far. Chris is enthusiastic about the opportunities for the park and found ten willing participants at the meeting. He would be glad to have more contact him at 358-3331. You can leave him a voice mail with your name and address even if you call after hours.

Scott Brinitzer, who is among other things responsible for landscaping the Community House, has applied for a grant from the Myers Foundation for a watering system and other improvements to get the grounds restoration under way. The grant will facilitate a community garden concept involving Barcrofters working with Demeter House residents to plant and maintain the grounds.

Bike Path Altered Along Columbia Pike

VDOT has rebuilt some curb cuts on Columbia Pike to add rough surfaces for alerting blind cane users. In the process, they changed the curb cut for the W & OD trail on the far side of Columbia Pike from us. It no longer aligns with the crosswalk, so you have to swerve out of the crosswalk to the right to miss the curb. Care is indicated, since at least one Barcrofter who was not alert enough has hit the curb and gone over his handle bars.

Around the Neighborhood with Kathy Kerr



Isn't that Jessica Cogen? That's what I thought as I was reading the USA Weekend magazine, dated Nov. 7-9, that came with the Arlington Journal. There she was in full color, along with her youngest son, Eric. The picture was taken at Fresh Fields in Clarendon for the food-themed issue. Jessica and her husband, Joel Newton, live on South Pershing Drive, with their two boys, Trevor and Eric. Jessica is an active member of Barcroft's traffic committee.

Welcome to new Barcrofters Joy Cobb, Margaret Bauman and her son, David. They recently moved into the Unitarian Church parsonage on 1st Street South, which over the years has been rented to church members. Margaret is especially happy with the house because there is room for her painting studio. There is also an enormous backyard. Margaret looks forward to gardening, although Joy hopes to have a volleyball court there. Hmmm.

Joy is a rehabilitation counselor working from home. David (pronounced dah-VEED) is 11 years old and a 6th grader at H-B Woodlawn. David enjoys in-line skating and is on a roller hockey team in Fairfax County. In the household there is also a 14-year-old dachshund, Gorky; three cats, Kitty, Emerson and Madeline, as well as a rabbit named Malcolm.

Community Service Focus for Fifth Graders

Barcroft Elementary School fifth graders have kicked off a continuing, monthly community service program. Last month, they weeded flower beds and common areas on school grounds. For Hispanic Heritage Month, they collected school supplies and sent them to a school in Bolivia. They are planning to collect mittens and scarves for needy children, food for the homeless, Toys for Tots, and raise funds for the animal shelter.

Teachers select projects that help

students understand that their efforts can make a positive difference in their community and impact the lives of others.

The Home Depot, 400 S. Pickett in Alexandria, is supporting "Leonardo's Garden," Barcroft's school-wide schoolyard gardening project. Manager Steve Thomas donated materials, tools, and fertilizer that made last month's Beautification Day kickoff a success.

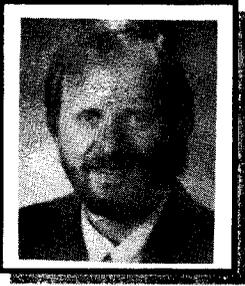
The Barcroft PTA reminds parents and friends that you can earmark Barcroft Elementary School as a recipient of a United Way contribution. Just write in the school's name on the form and your donation will be given to the school.

Keep Those Valuable Box Tops Coming!!

Efforts to collect "Box Tops for Education" at Barcroft Elementary School are in full swing. The school gets 15 cents for each box top from General Mills brand cereals; and 10 cents for each box top from General Mills snack items. Look for the logo bearing the 1997-98 "Big G Box Tops for Education" slogan.

Funds from the General Mills drive will be used by the PTA to help fund a program at Barcroft called "Rediscover the Schoolyard," a multi-discipline approach to using the school grounds for scientific study, math projects, artistic expression and environmental awareness.

For more information, contact Harriet Moncure Williams at 553-0911.



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County Needs More Election Workers Here

If you voted this year and saw some unfamiliar faces among the election workers, it was because we don't have enough workers here in our precinct. You can be an election worker and serve the neighborhood next year by calling the Electoral Board office for the signup form at 358-3456.

Registrar Charlotte Cleary says we need ten more Barcrofters to sign up for next year, since there are always some workers out of town or tied up on election day. The day is very long: 5 a.m. until well after the polls close at 7 p.m.. A two hour training class teaches you to set up the machines, process voters, tally results and close down the polls.

Pay is the princely sum of \$85,

which probably works out to less than \$6 per hour, but the real compensation is working for the community and seeing all your neighbors as they come in to vote. Call now while you are thinking about it -- you can leave your address for the form on their voice mail at any hour of the day or night.

Arlington Blvd. Buffer to be Curbed, Improved

Construction on the Arlington Forest buffer strip improvement along the south side of Arlington Boulevard was tentatively scheduled to begin in late November or early December, according to Bill Roberts, the county's capital projects coordinator.

The buffer project will be built in three stages. The first stage will construct curb lines on the north side of the Arlington Boulevard service road, which will be widened slightly to 20 feet.

The second and third stages of the project require warmer weather and will be completed in early spring. First, the surface of the service road and parking spots will be asphalted, and finally, extensive landscaping of the buffer strip will be completed.

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(continued from page 1)

to Winslow.

School Board member Elaine Furlow won here by 622 votes to 299 for Ric Roca. State Assemblyman Karen Darner won re-election by 62 percent overall, winning 535 Barcroft votes to 411 for Sandy Bushue. In the statewide offices we voted for Beyer (58 percent), Payne (58 percent) and Dolan (57 percent), all Democrats.

Barcroft turned out 54 percent of our 1,830 registered voters, compared to 49 percent countywide. That's good, but nine other precincts did better, topped by Madison with 64 percent. A reputation for high voter turnouts is good for the neighborhood, particularly in non-Presidential years. Get ready to vote in 1998!

Lubber Run Center Asks for Advisory Help

Lubber Run Recreation Center manager Mike Reeves and county parks and recreation regional manager Tim Chestnut are turning to a new Lubber Run Center Advisory Committee to find out what the community wants from Lubber Run.

"The county is committed to making its services responsive to citizen needs," Chestnut explained at the advisory committee's first meeting Nov. 5.

Reeves said his hope for the new advisory group was to come up with community input and ideas that would produce rec center programs that truly meet citizen needs. He said he envisioned a group, representing all the interests of the communities served by the center, that would help initiate projects and support center programs in their communities.

Lubber Run Center currently operates its recreational program with a staff of five, three of whom are part time employees (most of the center's second floor space is utilized as a parks and recreation administration annex during the day and by county-wide classes at night).

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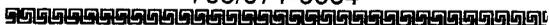
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Dec. 4, Thursday -- **BSCL Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Barcroft Community House, 800 S. Buchanan St. Holiday singalong.



Call the Barcroft Neighborline

521-1116

Get the latest information

Barcroft on the Internet: <http://www.bscl.org>



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